

Town of



AMHERST

Massachusetts

TOWN HALL
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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, April was first declared "Child Abuse Prevention Month" by Presidential Proclamation in 1985, and

WHEREAS, organizations dedicated to protecting children have used this special time of year to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse, and

WHEREAS, the month of April is devoted to celebrating all the activities to transform communities into places that care about families and children, and

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month is about connecting all of those concepts so that solutions to child abuse may be achieved.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Select Board of the Town of Amherst, declares April to be

Child Abuse Prevention Month

in the Town of Amherst and directs that the Children's Memorial Flag be raised at the Town Common on April 30, 2010.

VOTED AND DATED this 21st day of April, 2010





**Children's Memorial Flag Raising
12:00 p.m. April 30, 2010
Town Hall-Amherst, MA**

April was first declared "Child Abuse Prevention Month" by Presidential proclamation in 1985. Since then, organizations who are dedicated to protecting children have used this special time of year to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse in all its forms. The month of April is devoted to celebrating everything we can do to transform our community into a place that cares about-and actively supports-families and children. By ensuring that all parents in our community have access to quality childcare, affordable health services, parenting education resources, and substance abuse and mental health programs, we make progress toward child abuse prevention.

The majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are entirely preventable in an engaged and supportive community. A community that cares about early childhood development, parent support and maternal mental health, for instance is more likely to see families nurturing children who are born healthy and enter school ready to learn. Cities and towns that work to create good school systems and who come together to ensure that affordable housing is available in good, safe neighborhoods are less likely to see stressed, isolated families who don't know where to turn.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is about connecting all of those dots so that the solutions to child abuse receive the attention the public craves. But it's not enough to care about the problem and address its consequences. We have to pay attention to the kinds of efforts that will prevent it from happening in the first place. So this April, learn more about what you and your community can do to support child abuse prevention. It's a shared responsibility and we're stronger together.

Please join the Amherst-based programs of the Center for Human Development, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Outreach of Amherst, Not Bread Alone, and Jessie's House, on April 30th at the Amherst Town Hall to show that we are committed to preventing child abuse and neglect in our community.

For more information please call Laura Reichsman at 548-1270
or Renee Moss at 253-2591